

Amendments to the Claims: Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

1-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A communication network ~~comprising: having a communication component with~~

~~a plurality of communication components, at least some of which comprise both client and server functionalities, at least some of the client functionalities including a search function for ascertaining a current address of those~~ that ascertains network addresses of others of the communication components that allow the server functionalities of the others to be used;
~~comprising:~~

a retrieval mechanism in said at least some of the client functionalities that obtains information about the server functionalities of the said other communication components; and,
~~the client functionalities of other communication components capable of retrieving the information obtained by the retrieval mechanism;~~

wherein the server functionalities provide usable services in the communication network.

9. (previously presented) The communication network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the communication network provides for a self-administration on the basis of the information ascertained by the search functions.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The communication network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein a server functionality is selected for use by using a state information when a plurality of server functionalities are present.

12. (previously presented) The communication network as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the state information comprises a current utilization level of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

13. (previously presented) The communication network as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the state information comprises the use cost of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

14. (previously presented) The communication network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the client functionality is designed to retrieve an authorization before using a server functionality.

15. (previously presented) The communication network as claimed in Claim 14, wherein at least one server functionality is provided for managing the authorization.

16. (currently amended) A method of communication within a network, comprising:
providing a plurality of communication components with both client and server functionalities;

~~ascertaining a current~~ via a search function of the client functionality of at least some of the communication components an address of at least some others of the communication components that allow the server functionalities of said some others to be used; ~~via a search function;~~ and

retrieving information about the server functionality ~~information about at least some of said some others of the communication components by the client functionality of said at least some of the communication components;~~

wherein the server functionalities provide services in the communication network.

17. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising providing a self-administration based of the information ascertained by the search functions.

18. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a plurality of search functions are contained in the communication network and in the communication components.

19. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a server functionality is selected for use by using a state information when a plurality of server functionalities are present.

20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the state information comprises a current utilization level of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

21. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the state information comprises the use cost of the server functionalities that are present a plurality of times.

22. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the client functionality is designed to retrieve an authorization before using a server functionality.

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein at least one server functionality is provided for managing the authorization.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the current address of all of the communication components are ascertained.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the server functionality of all of the communication components are retrieved.

26. (new) A method of communication within a network, comprising:

connecting a plurality of communication components to a first network, at least some of the communication components comprising both client and server functionalities, some of the communication components comprising gateways, each gateway comprising communications channels to a second network, and each gateway comprising a server functionality that maintains information on usage and available communications channels of the gateway;

a given one of said at least some of the communication components querying others of the communication components and storing information received from responding others of the communication components as to what server functionalities are provided by each of the responding others;

the given communication component making the stored information available on the first network as responses to inquiring others of the communication components;

the given communication component determining a shortest communications route from the given communication component to a subscriber on the second network by means of response propagation delays from a selection of responding gateways on the network;

the given communication component retrieving the information on usage and available communications channels from the selection of responding gateways, and

the given communication component choosing a best gateway through which to communicate with the called subscriber by sorting the selection of responding gateways first in order of greatest availability, and second in order of shortest route.